

RFP Questions and Clarifications Memorandum

To: Vendors Responding to RFP (Project Title: Broadband Mapping) for the Office of the Governor and the Mississippi Broadband Task Force (MBTF)
From: Serena R. Clark
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Subject: Responses to Questions Submitted
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The following questions were submitted to the Office of the Governor and the Mississippi Broadband Task Force (MBTF) and are being presented as they were submitted, except to remove any reference to a specific vendor. This information should assist you in formulating your response.

Question 1: In the RFP, on page 5, Mapping/Research/Benchmarking, it states for applicants to "Gather data at the address level..." It is assumed that the intent is for 100% of all addresses in the State are to be surveyed. If not, what is the acceptable percentage of addresses? If less than 100% of addresses are to be surveyed, then what is the measuring area; for example, 50% of addresses in each census block area, county, etc.

Response: The State desires to collect as complete a data set as possible, within acceptable time constraints, and in accordance with the rules set forth in the Federal Register, Vol. 74, No. 129, pp. 32545-32565. Specifically, see p. 32549 for the definition of a Substantially Complete Data Set. A data set is substantially complete when it contains data on broadband services provided by (a) 70 percent of broadband service providers in a State; (b) to 80 percent of households in a State; (c) to 90 percent of households in rural areas of the State; and (d) to 95 percent of public Community Anchor Institutions.

Question 2: Subject #2 - Most DSL plant can be identified by physical inspection by field surveyors. However, collection of data regarding the footprint of some locations of DSL facilities may be difficult to verify due to the POP being located inside buildings, in UG vaults, and in other non identifiable structures. Presentation of a NDA may or may not be acceptable to some of the service providers. Is the State going to provide any assistance in negotiating with the service providers towards obtaining the data needed in these types of situations?

Response: It is an expectation of the Office of the Governor and the Mississippi Broadband Task Force (MBTF), as indicated in the RFP, for the Vendor to "[n]egotiate a confidential, non-disclosure agreement with providers" (p. 5 of 11). Similarly, it is expected that the Vendor will "[p]rovide evidence of

projects in which Vendor collected data in a proprietary, non-disclosure environment” (p. 7 of 11).

When appropriate, and within its purview, the State will provide assistance in the data collection effort. The data collection effort will proceed utilizing the definition of Confidential Information, set forth in the Federal Register, Vol. 74, No. 129, p. 32549. In addition, (see p. 32550, Confidentiality Requirements) as a condition of grant funding under this Program, awardees may not agree to a more restrictive definition of Confidential Information than the definition adopted by this Program. And lastly, see p. 32550 for a detailed overview of Nondisclosure Agreements.